

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph 0011, please amend as follows:

[0011] The present invention was devised to resolve the ~~abovementioned~~ above mentioned problems in the prior art. Accordingly, the general object of the present invention is to provide a fixed-monetary-amount purchasing system for precious metals in which clients can enjoy a wide variety of services in a quicker and safer fashion in addition to the conventional fixed-monetary-amount purchasing services.

Paragraph 0141, please amend as follows:

[0141] In this investment service system utilizing the ~~interne~~ internet, the range of the weight required for participation in the investment system is set; accordingly, it is possible at all times to collect only weights that are feasible for investment in accordance with prevailing market conditions. As a result, investment costs can be lowered compared to cases where there is an agreement to invest the entire amount of merchandise held in protective custody at one time.

Paragraph 0147, please amend as follows:

[0147] As was described above, the present system is arranged so that the aforementioned clients 18 connect to the main server 14 of the purchasing organization 12 from the client servers 20 via the internet 16. However, the present invention is not limited to such an arrangement; it would also be possible to use so-called portable terminals utilizing ~~[[i]]~~ i-mode, etc., instead of client servers.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto is one replacement sheet for Fig. 9.